

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03287 070845Z

12

ACTION EA-09

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R 070805Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5715

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3287

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SN, US

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE REACTION TO SECRETARY'S ALASTAIR BUCHAN LECTURE

1. LENGTHY EDITORIAL IN JULY 5 STRAITS TIMES (ST) GAVE QUASI AUTHORITATIVE SINGAPORE VIEWS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT LECTURE AT LONDON'S INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES. ST ENDORSED SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH WITHOUT DEMURRAL, TERMING IT "A CRITICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL TOUR DE FORCE WHICH -- REASONED, REALISTIC AND OPTIMISTIC -- IS A VALUABLE CORRECTIVE TO FASHIONABLE BUT UNJUSTIFIED PESSIMISM."

2. IN PARTICULAR, ST AGREED WITH SECRETARY'S VIEW THAT ABILITY OF INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES TO PREVAIL IN THEIR COMPETITION WITH COMMUNISM IS A QUESTION OF WILL. THIS LATTER INGREDIENT WOULD BE INDISPENSABLE FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE, ACCORDING TO ST, SO LONG AS IT IS NECESSARY FOR NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS TO LIVE IN A TWILIGHT ZONE BETWEEN TRANQUILITY AND OPEN CONFRONTATION. REFERRING TO SALT, ST TERMED AS "SURELY CORRECT" SECRETARY'S VIEW THAT PRESENT BALANCE OF FORCES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED SINCE FURTHER BUILD-UP COULD PROVE DE-STABILIZING AS WELL AS ECONOMICALLY WASTEFUL. EMPHASIZING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE SECRETARY'S CONCLUSIONS TO THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL SCENE, STRAITS TIMES NOTED THAT MUTUAL RESTRAINT BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE SOVIET UNION WAS INDIVISIBLE AND REQUIRED GLOBAL APPLICATION.

HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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